

Minutes EMS Emergency Management Committee Meeting
The Place at Innsbrook, Henrico County
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

Present

Jack Barbour, Health and Medical Emergency Response Teams (HMERT); Bubby Bish, Governor's Advisory Board (GAB); Ken Crumpler, Officer of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS); Jon Donnelly, Old Dominion EMS Alliance, (ODEMSA); Melinda Duncan, Northern Virginia EMS Council; Steve Ennis, Virginia Hospital and Health Care Association (VHHA); Terry Herbert, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, VDEM; Jim Masten, Peninsula Emergency Medical Services (PEMS); Jim Nogle, (OEMS); Karen Owens, OEMS; Winnie Pennington, OEMS; Michael Smith, Virginia State Police, (VDOT) Sue Maddox-Toth, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Call to order:

At 1005 AM committee chairman Bubby Bish called the meeting to order. Introductions were made for those attending the meeting for the first time.

Steve Ennis' name was added to the July minutes as attending and minutes were approved as amended.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Bish told the committee that he had reported to the Advisory Committee that this committee was monitoring EMS coverage for the Yorktown 225th Anniversary Celebration, October 19-22, 2006 and would continue to assist in finding EMS coverage and in anyway they could for the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, May 11-13, 2007.

Member Agency Reports/Updates:

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) – Operation

Jim Nogle reported that since the committee had last met the HMERT had been part of a very successful move of Williamsburg Hospital. This move incorporated ambulances from the region and two HMERT Task Forces. Emergency Operations continues to assist in preparation for both the 225^h Anniversary of the Surrender at Yorktown and the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Jamestown and the use of HMERT in both of those events. Jim did advise that teams for Yorktown would be responding for Saturday and Sunday only. HMERT Teams have also been on alert this summer for races and various storms

Karen Owens reported that updates on Modules of MCI I & II had been completed and piloted in Southwest Virginia. Modules will be put on DVD with imbedded notes for instructors. Some will be put on video for Instructors without DVD capabilities.

Operations staff has been at Longwood College working with School Nurses teaching them START Triage. This was well received and the School Nurses are now requesting instruction on developing evacuation plans.

Emergency Operations courses at Symposium will include MCI I & II, Vehicle Extrication (New Vehicle Technology), Rehab, and EMS Special Events.

Winnie Pennington reported that the first part of the two year HRSA grant project, which consisted of developing a needs assessment, has been completed by the working group. The working group will now begin the 2nd year's work which will consist of reviewing submitted MOUs and plans for best practices and then developing a planning template for jurisdictions to use when planning to expand mutual aid. This part of the grant will also include distribution of the template and education of the jurisdictions.

Winnie also gave a report on her attendance of the Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee. After updates on Avian Flu worldwide, and Pandemic Flu grant, exercise and antiviral distribution planning presentations were given by Alexandria Health Department, Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc., Department of Human Resource Management, and Danville Public Schools. At this time there is still no clear consensus on what constitutes a "First Responder" and no clear guidance for taking care of them or their families during an outbreak or distribution of anti-viral and vaccines. She also reminded members of the Health Department Pandemic Influenza Exercise "Fowl Play" in October and encouraged members if they knew of jurisdictions participating in the exercise to encourage them to include their EMS provider organizations in their planning and exercising.

Winnie reminded the committee that she would be giving a presentation during Symposium on emergency family planning and ways planning is the same and different for EMS personnel and their families and encouraged them to come and let others know about the presentation.

Ken Crumpler reported on the progress of the PSAP-MedEvac Communications Directory. He reported that he expects to have a draft out at next weeks VAVRS convention and the final version available at Symposium in November. He also reminded everyone of the Communications Track at Symposium and encouraged members to talk it up to jurisdiction communication centers and public safety organizations. There will be three specific courses dealing with Emergency Operations this year. Also, Chris Esad from the Governor's interoperability committee will be attending and speaking at the next Communications sub-committee meeting to be held the Friday of Symposium at the same location.

Ken also reported that Operations had obtained 7 more portable radios to use during deployments.

Jim Nogle reported for Carol Morrow for Critical Incident Stress Management. He reported that currently she is working with Criminal Justice Academies to develop a program for Law Enforcement. She will be teaching for them next Monday and Tuesday but the idea is to train DCJ instructors to teach in their own academies. She is also working with the Department of Fire Programs to strengthen their program. She hopes to hold a “mini” conference around March in Roanoke or Lynchburg with just a couple of major offerings and the much larger conference at the end of May in Virginia Beach with a broader selection of courses offered.

Jim was asked about the positions being posted for OEMS Operations. He advised that there are currently two positions that OEMS is looking to fill, an administration position and HMERT Coordinator. The administration position had been selected; however, the chosen individual did not agree with the pay-band and did not take the job. The HMERT Coordinator will be announced hopefully in the next couple of weeks. The administrative position will be re-advertised. Jim also reported that this is the Virginia 1 DMAT on call month, September through the first part of October. They have been called up to go to Atlanta during Tropical Storm Ernesto and some members have responded out of the country to assist with disasters in other countries. They continue training on a monthly basis.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Terry Herbert reported that VDEM has had its first actual full Augmentation of the new EOC for Tropical Storm Ernesto. Things seemed to go well with some minor glitches in the WEB EOC program but those are being worked on and should be corrected soon. For those who participated there will be a “Hot Wash” on October 5 from 1300-1530. All are encouraged to bring lessons learned, updates, etc. VDEM Mobile Command Post will deploy to the Oceana Naval Air Show and serve as a static display and employees responding with the vehicle will serve as state liaison for the base. Terry also reported that the American Red Cross has assigned a permanent liaison to the VEOC. She will be there for emergencies and she will use the EOC as her base as she travels around assisting Red Cross Chapters across the Commonwealth. VDEM is involved with the formation of APCO Communication Task Forces across Virginia. These Task Forces will be on standby for large events where jurisdictions need additional communications staff to augment or replace current staff during crisis. VDEM staff and equipment will deploy to the Urbanna Oyster Festival, November 3-4, 2006 to assist in emergency operations. Crowds for the event are expected to be around 200,000 per day. VEOC will participate and augment for the VDH pandemic influenza exercise on October 22-23. All Emergency Support Functions (ESF) will participate except ESF 9, 10 and 14. These would be SAR, Hazmat, and Community Development.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) –

Sue Maddox-Toth reported that Virginia Department of Transportation has a new Commissioner. He will be focusing on the General Assembly agenda of reform for VDOT which will include more use of technology and privatization of services. Also alleviating congestion will be a primary focus. Reduction of Work Force has also been discussed in the Department. VDOT in conjunction with National Preparedness Month has developed a program for its employees that focus on topical weekly education to help them become more aware and prepared in emergencies. Sue reported that tomorrow, September 22 the VDOT CERT Team would have an “active shooter” exercise with Capital Police. This exercise will be small but on October 6 there will be another exercise at the 8th Street Office Building which will be regional with which will include officers from various jurisdictions and Sue is recruiting “victims” for the scenario. This will be an all day event. VDOT is continuing NIMS training with all of its employees especially its CERT

EMS Councils –

Jim Masten of PEMS reported that TS Ernesto did cause some problems for Mary Immaculate Hospital during the storm. The hospital experienced total power failure due to its generator being destroyed during the storm. Problems experienced included implementation of the hospital’s disaster plan and the use of ICS, need for better communication with ESF-8 and the VEOC. When hospital requested help from the state, original information received from VEOC and ESF-8 that did not successfully mitigate or improve the situation, especially when it came to finding another generator.

Jon Donnelly of ODEMSA reported that in his region they have finished their year long project to provide for every licensed provider agency in planning districts 13, 14 and 19 with 25 Mark I nerve agent antidote kits. MMRS disaster trailers are now in 4 localities, each trailer is capable of treating 50 adult and 50 pediatric patients. Additionally, ODEMSA is currently working to preposition disaster caches that will include a mini-ChemPack (using Mark I kits), and a Med Tracks system to track both victims and patients in a disaster. These caches will hopefully be pre-positioned across the region and in place by the first of next year. ODEMSA will be working with the health department particularly EP&R to improve their abilities to provide “Special Needs” shelters in their region. Their first task will be to define “Special Needs”. The goal is one in every jurisdiction and a template for other regions and jurisdictions. Regional CERT is requesting updates in START Triage which is being given using OEMS lesson plans. ODEMSA has just finished a review and update of regional guidelines for Med-Evac Helicopters in their region.

VHHA –

Steve Ennis reported on a Risk Management meeting held last week where participants reviewed information put out by Tulane University Hospital that reported that the major crisis for hospitals in LA and MS this year would be bankruptcy due to the aftermath of

Hurricane Katrina. It is unclear how this will affect health care in those areas in the coming months and years. The report went on to say that though hospitals in those areas were grateful for any help the locality, state or federal government gave, in another emergency they would need to be more self-sufficient to provide for patients and protect hospital assets. October 3-4 Steve will be presenting at the Interoperability Conference. He will give a demonstration of the Hospital Web EOC pages. During the upcoming VDH drill the RHCCs will be stood up for one day to practice shift change and other administrative objectives.

Steve is planning to meet with the NDMS representatives in November. Bill Berthrong of EP&R is setting this meeting up. The goal will be to help the representative work more closely with the state system. October 27-28, 2006 there will be a HICS T-t-T course offered. Attendees selected by each of the 6 hospital regions, hopeful 10-15 people per region as trainers for their region. NIMS hospital guidance documents were released a week and a half ago and provided to all the regional coordinators and to the HIMC committee. Hospitals have until October of 2007 to comply with the "guidance".

Old Business

Presentation by Steve Ennis on Hospital Web-EOC for VHHA, the RHCC and hospitals

New Business/Discussion

Next Scheduled Meeting

Meeting Schedule for the remainder of 2006 is as follows:

November 16

All meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (unless noted) at "The Place" at Innsbrook, Richmond, Va. the exact room will be announced before the meeting. All meetings include lunch.

Meetings will become quarterly after the first of the year and a new schedule will be given in the November minutes.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM